

Message Text

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INFO OAU COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182607

FOL RPT ANTANANARIVO 1341 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOSCOW
JUL 18, 1978

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L ANTANANARIVO 1341

DEPT PASS TO OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDEV, PORG, MA
SUBJ: RATSIRUKA GOES TO OAU SUMMIT

REF: ANT 1289

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA LEFT ANTANANARIVO JULY 17 TO ATTEND OAU SUMMIT. HE HAD PREDICTED THAT HE MIGHT DO THIS IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN FROM MOSCOW (REFTEL) AND FACTOR THAT UNDOUBTEDLY DECIDED HIM WAS INSCRIPTION OF WESTERN SAHARA ON SUMMIT AGENDA. AS ONE OF PRINCIPAL SPONSORS OF SAHROUI REPUBLIC, MADAGASCAR BEING FIRST COUNTRY TO RECOGNIZE NEW SAHROUI GOVERNMENT AND TO RECEIVE A RESIDENT SAHROUI AMBASSADOR, AND A PROPONENT OF AN OAU SUMMIT DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT, HE PROBABLY FELT OBLIGATED TO GO. HE MIGHT ALSO USE
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HIS PRESENCE THREERE TO CONTINUE PUSHING FOR A MEETING OF PROGRESSIVE AFRICANS AT THE GOVERNMENT OR SUMMIT LEVEL.
END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA HAS, SINCE HIS ACCESSION TO POWER IN 1975, PREFERRED ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER

GOVERNMENTS AND THIS IS FIRST MULTILATERAL MEETING HE HAS ATTENDED OUTSIDE OF MADAGASCAR. HIS CONFIDENCE AND READINESS TO MIX WITH HIS PEERS WERE PROBABLY BOLSTERED BY HIS RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW AND SELECTED PROGRESSIVE AFRICAN STATES. HE WILL BE INTERESTED IN ANY REPORTS ON HOW HE PERFORMS IN HIS INTERNATIONAL DEBUT.

3. IN BRIEF REMARKS TO PRESS AT AIRPORT RATSIRAKA CHOSE TO DOWNPLAY SAHROUI ISSUE AS REASON FOR HIS ATTENDANCE, SAYING HE WAS STILL NOT CERTAIN QUESTION WOULD ACTUALLY BE DISCUSSED. HE SAID INSTEAD THAT HIS VISIT WAS A LOGICAL FOLLOW-UP TO HIS RECENT VISITS ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA. HE REPEATED A PREVIOUS ASSERTION THAT HE WOULD BE FOR AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IF IT FOUGHT TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE REGRETTED CATEGORIZATION OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO MODERATES AND PROGRESSIVES, WHICH HE IS ALWAYS DOING, AS A MEANS TO DIVIDE AFRICA. HE SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON NEW GOVERNMENT OF MAURITANIA BUT SAID HE WOULD APPROVE IT IF IT NEGOTIATED WITH POLISARIO FRONT.

4. ACCOMPANYING RATSIRAKA ON THIS TRIP WERE FORMER PRIME MINISTER AND MEMBER OF SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL JUSTIN RAKOTONIAINA, SPECIAL ASSISTANT GEORGES SOLOFOSON, PRESIDENTIAL PROTOCOL DIRECTOR MOISE RUKAOTOSIHANAKA, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS HENRI RAZAFINDRATOVO. BARRETT UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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